



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

POST OFFICE BOX 6638 * PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638

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Direct Inquiries to: Bart Graves

Contact Information: Bgraves@azdps.gov

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORTS "CLICK IT OR TICKET" TO HELP SAVE LIVES

More than 15,000 people died in traffic accidents between the nighttime hours of 6:00PM and 6:00AM during 2005, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and 59 percent were NOT wearing their safety belts at the time of the fatal crash.

The percentage of those who died at night while not wearing safety belts is considerably higher than the 44 percent of people who were not "buckled up" and were killed during the daytime hours across the nation that same year.

That's why the Arizona Department of Public Safety announced today they are increasing safety belt enforcement from mid May through Memorial Day as part of the national "Click It or Ticket" campaign. The goal is to reduce highway fatalities by encouraging vehicle passengers to buckle up both day and night.

"In 2005, 279 people not wearing safety belts died on Arizona roadways says Lieutenant Jeff King of the Arizona Highway Patrol. The safety belt use rate in this state actually declined from approximately 93 percent down to 78 percent during 2006. Working through education, public awareness and aggressive enforcement we hope to bring our safety belt use back up with the aim of reducing injuries and deaths"

In 2005, 77 percent of passengers in serious vehicle crashes who were buckled up, survived the collision. When worn correctly safety belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to people riding in front seats by 45 percent and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans.

Yet despite these statistics, nearly one in five Americans (19 percent nationally) still fail to regularly wear their safety belts when driving or riding in a motor vehicle according to a NHTSA study.

" We expect thousands of people to be on the road this Memorial Day weekend so our goal is to save lives and as always keep Arizona highways safe" says Roger Vanderpool Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.